

We Claim:

Sub a1 1. A method for diagnosing glaucoma which comprises detecting aberrant alternate splice form of the human glucocorticoid receptor (GR β) expression or defects in a GR gene which encodes GR β .

5 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein GR gene defects are detected by a method selected from the group of assays consisting of: restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), single-stranded conformation polymorphism (SSCP), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), denaturing gradient gel, allele specific oligonucleotide ligation, and
10 allele specific hybridization.

3. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes in the GR gene leading to altered GR β expression.

Sub a2 4. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes outside the GR gene which lead to altered GR β expression.

20 5. A method for determining whether an agent is useful for treating glaucoma by determining whether it interacts with GR β or alters the expression of GR β .

Sub C3

We Claim:

1. A method for diagnosing glaucoma which comprises detecting aberrant GR β expression or defects in a GR gene which encodes GR β .
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein GR gene defects are detected by a method selected from the group of assays consisting of: restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), single-stranded conformation polymorphism (SSCP), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), denaturing gradient gel, allele specific oligonucleotide ligation, and allele specific hybridization.
3. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes in the GR gene leading to altered GR β expression.
4. A method for diagnosing glaucoma, which comprises detecting genetic changes outside the GR gene which lead to altered GR β expression.
5. A method for determining whether an agent is useful for treating glaucoma by determining whether it interacts with GR β or alters the expression of GR β .